

SHORT NOTES

I. IDENTIFICATION OF DIFFERENT SPECIES OF EIMERIA IN SHEEP AND GOATS IN AND AROUND LAHORE CITY

Mubashar S. Mian*, Ilyas A. Khan, Altaf H. Sheikh and A. Rabbani

Coccidiosis in sheep and goats is caused by various species of the genus *Eimeria*, a protozoan parasite. Many species of this genus have been identified in different countries; some of them are more while others are less pathogenic, still others are non-pathogenic.

To determine the incidence of different species of *Eimeria* in sheep and goats in and around Lahore city, a study was conducted by taking faecal samples of 421 sheep and goats of different ages and counting the oocysts per gram of faeces by McMaster egg counting technique. The faecal samples were allowed to sporulate in petri dishes for 48-72 hours using 2.5 per cent potassium dichromate solution as preservative. Identification of oocysts of different species was done by the technique as described by Christensen (1938). Of 421 samples, 98 were found positive for the following species of *Coccidia* viz., *E. arloingi*, *E. parva*, *E. intricata*, *E. faurei* and *E. pallida*. Details are given in Table 1. The incidence was higher in young animals as compared to that in adults and in most cases mixed infection was not uncommon although the *E. arloingi* was found to be the most common species in sheep and goats. The present findings are in agreement with the observations of Lotze (1952), Smith (1958) and Shah (1963).

Table 1. Incidence of various species of *Eimeria* in sheep and goats

Animal species	No. of samples examined	Incidence of various species				
		<i>E. arloingi</i> (%)	<i>E. parva</i> (%)	<i>E. intricata</i> (%)	<i>E. faurei</i> (%)	<i>E. pallida</i> (%)
Sheep	217	45.90	11.47	18.03	8.19	16.39
Goats	204	45.94	5.40	10.81	24.32	13.51

*College of Veterinary Sciences, Lahore.

Eimeria in Sheep and Goats

REFERENCES

- Christensen, J.F. 1938. Species differentiation in *Coccidia* from domestic sheep. *J. Parasitol.* 24 : 453.
- Lotze, J.C. 1952. The pathogenicity of the Coccidian parasite *E. arloingi* in domestic sheep. *Cornell Vet.* 42 : 520
- Shah, H.L. 1963. Coccidiosis in domestic sheep in the U.S.A., with description of sporulated oocysts of six species. *J. Parasitol.* 49 : 799.
- Smith, C.N. 1958. Coccidiosis in domestic mammals. *Vet. Rec.* 70 : 256.